

Testimonials for 100% Recycled Content Paper

The Seattle Public Library has been testing 100% recycled content paper for more than a year now, and after using nearly five thousand reams I say that 100% recycled works great!

Seattle Public Utilities suggested I try out 100% recycled paper in September 2003, so I experimented with it in my unit's shared printer. The migration was seamless, so I expanded the test shortly after, buying 100% recycled paper by the pallet for use in the Central Library's printers, fax machines, and copiers. The Library is a department of close to 600 employees working in 25 buildings, nearly half of whom work at the Central Library.

In July, 2004, I solicited comments from staff about 100% recycled paper. Staff advised that they had not been aware that we had migrated from 30% to 100% recycled paper, saying they would be happy to tell our public that we are using a more environmentally responsible product. I heard no problems or concerns associated with use of the new paper. I also called two local vendors that have maintained our photocopiers, asking for any input about use of 100% recycled paper. The service vendors likewise had no problems or concerns to report.

In August of 2004, I expanded the test again, making 100% recycled content paper the library-wide standard for all regular central and branch paper orders. As of today, the library has acquired 4,870 reams of 100% recycled content paper. I have had no reports of any difficulties with our test.

Given the above experience, I recommend 100% recycled content paper without reservation to other City departments. The new paper is fully functional for print and copy needs.

Larry Williamson
Seattle Public Library
Property and Procurement Manager

"For the past six months the Seattle Parks Print Shop has run 100% post consumer white bond exclusively in its copiers, the printers, and our offset press. We have found its performance indistinguishable from papers with lesser recycled content and so endorse broader use of such stock by City departments and the public in general."

Equipment used: Canon copiers, including IR8500 high-speed copiers
HP laser printers and Epson ink-jet printers
Multi 1860 offset press

Martin Kral
Printshop Supervisor
February 11, 2005

In July 2003, the State of Washington's Central Stores began stocking copy paper made from 100% post consumer waste, and process chlorine free. The Department of Ecology immediately switched to using this paper as the standard in all copiers and printers and multi-functional devices. The quality and function of the paper, made by Grays Harbor Paper in Aberdeen, Washington, met all expectations from the agency, even from the skeptical.

Word of the availability and acceptability of this paper got around to other Agencies, and several began to order the paper on a trial basis. Between July 2003 - June 2004, over 7% of the copy paper purchased through Central Stores was 100% pcw process chlorine free paper.

Central Stores reports that they do not receive any customer complaints about the performance of this paper. One agency found they had to make some adjustments to their machines, but are now using it successfully. It is being used on a wide variety of office equipment, including high speed copiers, desktop printers, and multifunctional devices.

At least five agencies are using this as their primary copy paper, and about 30 other agencies are using it for at least some percentage of copy paper use. Because Governor Locke called on agencies to reduce paper use and increase the use of EPP (Environmentally Preferable Paper) office paper (up to a goal of 50% in 2009), we expect to see usage of this paper continue to increase.

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We used the 100% recycled paper in the Municipal Court Technology division, in our HP-8250DN Laser Printer and a Cannon Imagerunner 2800 copier and experienced no difficulty or negative effects. The first controlled testing was in Court Tech with 10 employees. We have now moved the use of 100% to a larger division with 2 copiers, 3 faxes, 5 network printers which support approximately 40 employees.

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In 2003, all Kinko's – now FedEx Kinko's – locations throughout the United States began stocking chlorine-free paper made from 100-percent post-consumer recycled content fiber. Each of our centers was encouraged to promote this product and to use it in one self-service copier, often designated "the green machine." Additionally, we began printing our own corporate letterhead, envelopes and business cards on 100-percent post-consumer recycled content paper.

Based on the success of these offerings and our commitment to "green" business practices, we recently took another significant step to increase the overall average recycled content across all FedEx Kinko's paper and packaging. In December 2004, we announced that we had upgraded the post-consumer recycled content of paper we use "behind the counter" – our highest consumption area – from 10 percent to 30 percent.

These initiatives have been largely driven by our own culture and history, which includes a long-standing dedication to protecting the environment. One component of this commitment is our Forest-Based Product Procurement Policy, which formalizes our pledge to use forest-based products efficiently and to continue increasing the recycled content of the paper and wood products we purchase.

As we advance our effort to efficiently use forest-based products, FedEx Kinko's relies on important input from environmental groups and suppliers to help us ensure that we provide environmentally friendly paper that is of the highest quality and value and that best suits our customers' needs.

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